

How to Participate, as a Public Health Nurse, in the Essential Services of Public Health

1. Monitor health status to identify community health problems.
 - Participate in community assessment.
 - Identify subpopulations at risk for disease or disability.
 - Collect information on interventions to special populations.
 - Define and evaluate effective strategies and programs.
 - Identify potential environmental hazards.
2. Diagnose and investigate health problems and hazards in the community.
 - Understand and identify determinants of health and disease.
 - Apply knowledge about environmental influences of health.
 - Recognize multiple causes or factors of health and illness.
 - Participate in case identification and treatment of persons with communicable disease.
3. Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues.
 - Develop health and educational plans for individuals and families in multiple settings.
 - Develop and implement community-based health education.
 - Provide regular reports on health status of special populations within clinic settings, community settings, and groups.
 - Advocate for and with underserved and disadvantaged populations.
 - Ensure health planning, which includes primary prevention and early intervention strategies.
 - Identify healthy population behaviors and maintain successful intervention strategies through reinforcement and continued funding.
4. Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems.
 - Interact regularly with many providers and services within each community.
 - Convene groups and providers who share common concerns and interests in special populations.
 - Provide leadership to prioritize community problems and development of interventions.
 - Explain the significance of health issues to the public and participate in developing plans of action.
5. Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts.
 - Participate in community and family decision-making processes.
 - Provide information and advocacy for consideration of the interests of special groups in program development.
 - Develop programs and services to meet the needs of high-risk populations as well as broader community members.
 - Participate in disaster planning and mobilization of community resources in emergencies.
 - Advocate for appropriate funding for services.
6. Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.
 - Regulate and support safe care and treatment for dependent populations such as children and frail older adults.
 - Implement ordinances and laws that protect the environment.
- Establish procedures and processes that ensure competent implementation of treatment schedules for diseases of public health importance.
- Participate in development of local regulations that protect communities and the environment from potential hazards and pollution.
7. Link people to needed personal health services and ensure the provision of health care that is otherwise unavailable.
 - Provide clinical preventive services to certain high-risk populations.
 - Establish programs and services to meet special needs.
 - Recommend clinical care and other services to clients and their families in clinics, homes, and the community.
 - Provide referrals through community links to needed care.
 - Participate in community provider coalitions and meetings to educate others and to identify service centers for community populations.
 - Provide clinical surveillance and identification of communicable disease.
8. Ensure a competent public health and personal health care workforce.
 - Participate in continuing education and preparation to ensure competence.
 - Define and support proper delegation to unlicensed assistive personnel in community settings.
 - Establish standards for performance.
 - Maintain client record systems and community documents.
 - Establish and maintain procedures and protocols for client care.
 - Participate in quality assurance activities such as record audits, agency evaluation, and clinical guidelines.
9. Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services.
 - Collect data and information related to community interventions.
 - Identify unserved and underserved populations within the community.
 - Review and analyze data on health status of the community.
 - Participate with the community in assessment of services and outcomes of care.
 - Identify and define enhanced services required to manage health status of complex populations and special risk groups.
10. Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.
 - Implement nontraditional interventions and approaches to effect change in special populations.
 - Participate in the collecting of information and data to improve the surveillance and understanding of special problems.
 - Develop collegial relationships with academic institutions to explore new interventions.
 - Participate in early identification of factors that are detrimental to the community's health.
 - Formulate and use investigative tools to identify and impact care delivery and program planning.

From the Association of State and Territorial Directors of Nursing: *Public health nursing: a partner for healthy populations*, Washington, DC, 2000, ASTDN.